

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS *Syracuse VA Medical Center*800 Irving Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13210

Over \$7 Million of "Stimulus" Funding Awarded to the Syracuse VA!

Projects Include the NEW Community Living Center, Transformed into a State-of-the Art Facility

Congressman Dan Maffei Joins Veterans for a Preview of the New Center This Friday, April $30^{\rm TH}$

Syracuse VA Veteran patients are now enjoying the benefits of dozens of improvements throughout the medical center, thanks to a \$7.3 award of 'Stimulus' funding.

'Stimulus' projects range from physical improvements, to equipment upgrades, and energy conservation initiatives.

Says James Cody, Medical Center Director, "The funding of nearly one half million dollars allowed us to build the NEW Community Living Center. Our hospitalized Veterans can now enjoy its benefits, in an improved safe, healthy, home-like environment. And these projects brought work to local Veteran-owned contractors."

Lynn Kairewich, RN, CLC Manager, shares the enthusiasm of the new Center. "Thanks to the 'Stimulus', our Veteran residents, who require long-term care, may enjoy a facility that is one of the best in Central New York. The Center includes an attractive Living Room area, a large Dining Room including Stage and Interior Garden, plus a professional hairdressing area for men and women, so everyone can look their best. This environment, together with a caring VA staff, play an important role in the healing process."

The CLC will be opened for Veteran residents and family members as they join Congressman Dan Maffei this Friday with a preview look at the Center tomorrow, Friday, April 30, 2010 at 10:00am.

At that time, this and the other 'Stimulus' initiatives at the Syracuse VA, will be announced.

Media Note: Mr. Cody, Ms. Kairewich, & Veteran residents, and their family members will be available for interviews.

**And following, a look at the new (first-floor)VA Chapel , which includes a presentation of a U.S. Flag by Congressman Maffei to VA Chaplain Richard Brown.

Contact: Gordon Sclar, Public Affairs Officer, ph: 425-2422; Cell: 415-7275